

3800 Inverrary Boulevard
Suite 307
Lauderhill, FL 33319-4359

REP. HAZELLE P. ROGERS

Councils/Committee Membership

Government Accountability Act Council
Health & Family Services Policy Council
Health Care Services Policy Committee
Human Services Appropriations Committee
Roads, Bridges & Ports Policy Committee

Capitol Office:

1402 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
Phone: (850) 488-8234

District Office:

Corporate Park of Inverrary
3800 Inverrary Boulevard, Suite 307
Lauderhill, FL 33319-4359
Phone: (954) 497-3367
Fax: (954) 497-3369

Legislative Assistant:

Patricia Amiel-Young

District Secretary:

Elizabeth Honorat



Helpful Numbers for Consumers

First call for Help
Dial “211”

Complaints or information about telemarketing
1-800-435-7352

Division of Consumer Service
850-410-3661

FEMA
1-800-621-3362

Florida Do Not Call List
1-800-435-7352

Public Service Commission
1-800-342-3552

Report price gouging by calling
1-800-HELP-FLA

Teen Hotline
954-567-TEEN

FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

REPRESENTATIVE HAZELLE ROGERS



Dear friends and neighbors:

I am pleased to serve as your voice in the Florida House of Representatives at a challenging time for our state government.

My priorities throughout the session were to focus on Florida’s economic recovery, creating new jobs, education, health care, public safety and fighting for families and those who need the services of our state.

In writing a new state budget, we faced a \$6 billion revenue shortfall. The Legislature responded by reducing programs and services, draining trust funds and increasing fees by 2 billion, many of which will impact working-class families. For these and other reasons, I voted against the budget because I don’t think it adequately met our state’s needs.

Despite the budget’s insufficiencies, I am pleased that it makes use of substantial portions of the \$5.3 billion made available to Florida as a result of the federal economic recovery package approved by President Barack Obama and Congress. Regretfully, this budget rejects \$444 million of federal economic stimulus that would have enhanced benefits for the unemployed.

This year, my colleagues and I in the Florida House of Representatives undertook a number of serious initiatives that will improve the lives of our friends and neighbors. We also fought for seniors and people who rely on health care services, and won approval for legislation to require Medigap coverage for certain patients needing dialysis or kidney transplants. With a slow economic recovery we will be challenged with our budget priorities next year and I am ready and prepared to work on your behalf.

It has been a pleasure to serve you in the Legislature. Please do not hesitate to call my office at (954) 497-3367, or email me at hazelle.rogers@myfloridahouse.gov. if there is ever anything I can do for you.

Sincerely,

Hazelle P. Rogers

Representative Hazelle P. Rogers



LEGISLATION SPONSORED BY REP. ROGERS IN 2009



Motor Vehicle and Mobile Home Title Transfer (HB 293)

Too often a motor vehicle or mobile home is sold or transferred and the new owner does not register the vehicle. This sometimes leaves the previous owner liable for any action should that vehicle be found involved in any illegal or criminal activities. This year I filed legislation to help address the problem by requiring notification to the Department of Highway safety and Motor Vehicles immediately upon completion of the transaction.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (HB 1493)

HB 1439 deletes the requirement for a contract between the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and residential treatment facilities as well as sets client eligibility for substance abuse and mental health services by establishing priority populations to receive these services. The bill also revises the requirements for licensing for substance abuse programs which will now require licenses to be issued by a service component, rather a facility and also requiring the DCF to coordinate licensure inspections with other states.

Small Business Assistance (HB 975)

I sponsored legislation to revise the definition of “small business” to allow businesses with fewer than 100 employees with annual revenues between \$300,000 to \$20 million, and in operation for a minimum of 2 years. HB 975 would also require the agencies or government bodies having jurisdiction to establish a uniform, fair and open process for certification with various agencies and corporations to provide more opportunities and support for small business in securing more prime contracting opportunities.

Statewide Workforce Readiness Re-entry Program (HB 1363)

This year, I also sponsored legislation to address inmates’ re-entry into the community and workforce readiness. This bill would focus on vocation and post-release employment; enhancing partnerships with Florida’s workforce system and developing partnerships with employers to provide pre-release support and preparation. Unfortunately, this legislation was never heard before a committee. I will attempt to reintroduce it again in the next session.

Florida Retirement System (HB 1057)

I also sponsored HB 1057, Florida Retirement System, legislation that would redefine the term “special risk member” for purposes of FRS to include certain members employed by certain public acute care hospitals; revise the criteria for membership in Special Risk Class to include certain members employed by certain public acute care hospitals; and provide a statement of important state interest. This legislation did not make it to a committee hearing in either the House or the Senate.

THE 2009 FLORIDA LEGISLATURE’S ACCOMPLISHMENTS *(Highlights)*

The Budget

A debate over how to resolve a \$6-billion budget deficit dominated a very challenging legislative session. I simply believe the budget could have been better. It doesn’t adequately meet Florida’s responsibilities toward its residents in education, health care, public safety and other areas.



I had hoped for a much better outcome for Florida, and that’s why I voted “no” to this budget’s final passage. A better state budget would have done more for economic development and workforce training to strengthen our economy.

Education

Overall, in my view the state is not meeting expectations for our schools. However, the legislature did make strides on issues including:



- Putting to use nearly \$2 billion in federal economic recovery funds to help fund our school’s needs.
- I worked tirelessly with members of both political parties in support of continuing a program that gives bonuses to many of our hardest working teachers.

Health Care

I am distressed by the decision to cut important programs including ones that provide in-home care and daily meals for the elderly. However we did make strides and our achievements including:

- Winning approval for legislation to require Medigap coverage for certain patients needing dialysis or kidney transplants.
- Sparing Florida’s very important Medically Needy program, which provides essential health care for low-income families.

Public Safety

Public Safety and security are fundamental responsibilities of state government, and the 2009 legislative session produced new measures and funding to address crime prevention, victim assistance and law enforcement to include the following:



- Legislation to crack down on the illegal sale of prescription drugs.
- Enforcement of the safety belt laws, a measure that has the added benefit of putting the state in line for a federal grant that could reach \$35 million.

Property Taxes

This session, we passed several pieces of legislation aimed at providing additional property tax relief for Floridians. If you disagree with your property appraiser’s assessment, the appraiser will now have to justify the assessment. We also passed a ballot measure for November 2010 that will provide Florida voters with the opportunity to limit the property tax increases on non-homestead property and provide first-time homestead property owners an additional exemption.

